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NSC BRIEFING

3 November 1953

BURMA

The Government of Burma on 22 October outlawed the Burma Communist Party and an allied group, the Peoples Comrades Party. They had both been in open insurgency since 1948. The legal move indicates a belated realization on the part of the government that no peace with the Communists is possible.

Ostensibly unconnected with these insurgent groups is the Communist-front Burma Workers and Peasants Party. This legal opposition has been harassing the government in parliament and inciting public opinion through various media. This government step may have been designed as a first step to suppress this BWPP Communist instrument.

All local insurgent groups in Burma total about 10,000, according to Commander-in-Chief Ne Win. This figure, however, seems to conflict with the level of rebel activity and other

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observers estimate about 15,000. Burmese ground forces number slightly more than 60,000, including 15,000 military police and auxiliaries. Most of the regular army is reportedly deployed against 12,000 Chinese Nationalist troops in the northeast area of the country.

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